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generating a discharge current having at least a first steady-state current plateau and a second steady-state current plateau between the first electrode and the second electrode.

A3 16 20. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the generating the discharge current step comprises providing the net amplitude of a first steady-state current plateau exceeding the amplitude of a second steady-state current plateau.

Please add claims 21 and 22 as follows:

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21. An electronic circuit comprising:

a first electrode for electrical connection to an ionization detector system;
a second electrode for electrical connection to the ionization detector system;
a transformer electrically connected to the first electrode and to the second electrode for creating a spark between the first electrode and the second electrode; and
a current monitor electrically connected to the transformer.

22. A method of generating an electrical discharge for an ionization detector system comprising:

providing a first electrode and a second electrode, each electrically connected to the ionization system;
providing a transformer electrically that is connected to the first electrode and the second electrode;
inputting a DC voltage into the primary portion of the transformer;
generating a discharge current between the first electrode and the second electrode; and
monitoring a current input.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-18, and 20-22 are pending. Claims 1, 11, 21, and 22 are independent claims. By this amendment, claims 21 and 22 are added, claims 6 and 19 are cancelled, claims 1, 11, and 20 are amended, and Figures 1B and 1C are amended. The subject matter of claims 6 and 19 was incorporated into independent claims 1 and 11, respectively. Claim 20 was amended only for the purpose of clarity and has not been amended in view of the prior art. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the above amendments and the remarks that follow are respectfully requested.

Objection to FIGS. 1B and 1C of the Drawings:

FIGS. 1B and 1C of the present application have been objected to under M.P.E.P §608.02(g) for the reasons listed on page 2 of the Office Action. The attached "Request for